

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

- A2
1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving an instruction relating to a hierarchical database, ~~said the~~ hierarchical database comprising an association between a plurality of events available at a plurality of sending clients and a plurality of receiving clients eligible to receive ~~selected ones~~ one or more of the plurality of events, the hierarchical database further comprising a directed group structure in which the clients and events are assigned to groups such that clients assigned to a particular group are eligible for events assigned to the particular group as well as events assigned to all ancestor groups of the particular group; and

processing the instruction based on the hierarchical database.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1 wherein the instruction comprises a new client instruction, ~~[[said]]~~ the new client instruction including a client identifier and a group identifier, and wherein processing the instruction comprises:

assigning a client indicated by the client identifier to a group indicated by the group identifier.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1 wherein the instruction comprises a ticket instruction, ~~[[said]]~~ the ticket instruction including a particular group identifier, and wherein processing the instruction comprises:

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generating a ticket based on the particular group identifier, the ticket summarizing a set of events for which clients assigned to a group identified with the particular group identifier are eligible; and

providing the ticket for a particular client assigned to the particular group.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the instruction comprises a key instruction, the key instruction referring to a particular event summarized on a ticket for a particular client, and wherein processing the instruction comprises:

providing keying information to facilitate the event between the particular client and at least one additional client.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the instruction comprises a new event instruction, the new event instruction including a group identifier and an event identifier, the event identifier indicating an event available from a particular client assigned to a group indicated by the particular group identifier, and wherein processing the instruction comprises:

assigning the event indicated by the event identifier to the group indicated by the group identifier.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein instruction comprises a delete instruction, the delete instruction including a group identifier and an entity identifier, the entity identifier comprising one of a client identifier and a content identifier, and wherein processing the instruction comprises:

deleting an entity indicated by the entity identifier from a group indicated by the group identifier.

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8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1 wherein the instruction comprises a modification instruction, [[said]] the modification instruction including a group identifier, modification information, and an entity identifier, [[said]] the entity identifier comprising one of a client identifier and a content identifier, and wherein processing the instruction comprises:

modifying an entity indicated by the entity identifier and assigned to a group indicated by the group identifier with the modification information.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1 wherein the database is shared by a ticketing server and a keying server.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the ticketing server and the keying server are located remotely from one another.

11. (Currently Amended) A machine readable storage medium having stored thereon machine executable instructions, execution of [[said]] the machine readable instructions to implement a method comprising:

receiving an instruction relating to a hierarchical database, said the hierarchical database comprising an association between a plurality of events available at a plurality of sending clients and a plurality of receiving clients eligible to receive ~~selected ones~~ one or more of the plurality of events, the hierarchical database further comprising a directed group structure in which the clients and events are assigned to groups such that clients assigned to a particular group are eligible for events assigned to the particular group as well as events assigned to all ancestor groups of the particular group; and

processing the instruction based on the hierarchical database.

12. (Canceled)

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13. (Currently Amended) The machine readable storage medium of claim [[12]] 11 wherein the instruction comprises a new client instruction, [[said]] the new client instruction including a client identifier and a group identifier, and wherein processing the instruction comprises:

assigning a client indicated by the client identifier to a group indicated by the group identifier.

14. (Currently Amended) The machine readable storage medium of claim [[12]] 11 wherein the instruction comprises a ticket instruction, [[said]] the ticket instruction including a particular group identifier, and wherein processing the instruction comprises:

generating a ticket based on the particular group identifier, [[said]] the ticket summarizing a set of events for which clients assigned to a group identified with the particular group identifier are eligible.

15. (Currently Amended) The machine readable storage medium of claim [[12]] 11 wherein the instruction comprises a key instruction, [[said]] the key instruction referring to a particular event summarized on a ticket for a particular client, and wherein processing the instruction comprises:

providing keying information to facilitate the event between the particular client and at least one additional client.

16. (Currently Amended) The machine readable storage medium of claim [[12]] 11 wherein the instruction comprises a new event instruction, [[said]] the new event instruction including a group identifier and an event identifier, [[said]] the event

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identifier indicating an event available from a particular client assigned to a group indicated by the particular group identifier, and wherein processing the instruction comprises:

assigning the event indicated by the event identifier to the group indicated by the group identifier.

17. (Currently Amended) The machine readable storage medium of claim [[12]] 11 wherein the instruction comprises a delete instruction, [[said]] the delete instruction including a group identifier and an entity identifier, [[said]] the entity identifier comprising one of a client identifier and a content identifier, and wherein processing the instruction comprises:

deleting an entity indicated by the entity identifier from a group indicated by the group identifier.

18. (Currently Amended) The machine readable storage medium of claim [[12]] 11 wherein the instruction comprises a modification instruction, [[said]] the modification including a group identifier, modification information, and an entity identifier, [[said]] the entity identifier comprising one of a client identifier and a content identifier, and wherein processing the instruction comprises:

modifying an entity indicated by the entity identifier and assigned to a group indicated by the group identifier with the modification information.

19. (Currently Amended) A management server apparatus comprising:

a port to receive an instruction relating to a hierarchical database, said the hierarchical database comprising an association between a plurality of events available at a plurality of sending clients and a plurality of receiving clients eligible to receive

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~~selected ones~~ one or more of the plurality of events, the hierarchical database further comprising a directed group structure in which the clients and events are assigned to groups such that clients assigned to a particular group are eligible for events assigned to the particular group as well as events assigned to all ancestor groups of the particular group; and

a processing unit to process the instruction based on the hierarchical database.

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